

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Withdrawn) A wood board comprising:

A core layer including a plurality of adhered together veneer sheets on top of one another layered such that the longitudinal grain structures of each layer in each pair of adjacent veneer layers are perpendicular to each other, said veneers further including longitudinally pierced slots formed therein such that said slots are parallel with the longitudinal grain structures of said veneers; and

A face layer comprising a longitudinally sliced wood veneer adhered to at least one surface of said core layer.

2. (Withdrawn) A wood board according to claim 1, wherein said core layers comprise longitudinally sliced wood veneer sheets.
3. (Withdrawn) A wood board according to claim 1, wherein said core layer comprises longitudinally sliced wood veneer sheets and rotary cut wood veneer sheets.
4. (Withdrawn) A wood board according to claim 3, wherein said core layers comprise alternating layers of longitudinally sliced wood veneer sheets and rotary cut wood veneer sheets.
5. (Withdrawn) A wood board according to claim 1, wherein said core layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of chip board, particle board, masonite or plastic.
6. (Withdrawn) A wood board according to claim 1, wherein said core layers are oriented such that the tight side of each successive layer faces in an opposite direction from the preceding layer.

7. (Withdrawn) A wood board according to claim 1, wherein said core layers are oriented such that the tight side of each successive pair of layers face each other.
8. (Withdrawn) A wood board according to claim 1, wherein said core layers are oriented such that the tight side of each successive pair of layers face away from each other.
9. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing wood boards comprising the steps of:
(a) forming a core inner layer by: (1) preparing a back veneer sheet having longitudinally pierced slots therein oriented in parallel with its longitudinal grain structures; and (2) adhering one or more additional veneer ~~layers~~ sheets, each having longitudinally pierced slots therein oriented in parallel with its respective longitudinal grain structures, upon said back veneer sheet to form a stack of layered veneers sheets wherein the longitudinal grain structures of each ~~layer~~ veneer sheets are perpendicularly oriented with respect to each other; and (b) adhering a longitudinally sliced wood veneer face layer on said core inner layer such that the longitudinal grain structures of said face layer veneer are perpendicularly oriented with respect to the longitudinal grain structures of the proximate core inner layer veneer sheet to which it is attached; wherein said pierced slots do not cause appreciable expansion of the resulting wood board.
10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein said core inner layers is comprised of longitudinally sliced wood veneer sheets.
11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein said core inner layers comprise successively oriented longitudinally sliced wood veneer sheets and rotary cut wood veneer sheets.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein said core inner layers comprise alternating layers of longitudinally sliced wood veneer sheets and rotary cut wood veneer sheets.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein said core inner layers are is oriented such that the tight side of each successive ~~layer~~ veneer sheet faces in an opposite direction from the preceding ~~layer~~ veneer sheet.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein said core layers are oriented such that the tight side of each successive pair of layers face each other.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein said core layers are oriented such that the tight side of each successive pair of layers face away from each other.

16. (Withdrawn) A wood board made by a process of:

(a) forming a core layer by:

- (1) preparing a back veneer having longitudinally pierced slots therein oriented in a parallel with its longitudinal grain structures; and
- (2) adhering one or more additional veneer layers, each having longitudinally pierced slots therein oriented in parallel with its respective longitudinal grain structures, upon said back veneer to form a stack of layered veneers wherein the longitudinal grain structures of each layer in each pair of adjacent layers are perpendicularly oriented with respect to each other; and

(b) adhering a longitudinally sliced wood veneer face layer on said core layer such that the longitudinal grain structures of said face layer veneer are perpendicularly oriented with respect to the longitudinal grain structures of the core layer veneer sheet to which it is attached.

17. (Newly Added) A method according to claim 9, wherein said core inner layer has an even number of veneer sheets.
18. (Newly Added) A method according to claim 9, wherein the finished thickness of said wood boards is from about 0.375 to about 0.750 inches.
19. (Newly Added) A method according to claim 9, wherein said wood veneer face layer has a thickness of about 0.15 inches.
20. (Newly Added) A method according to claim 9, wherein said core inner layer is comprised of successively oriented rotary cut wood veneer sheets.
21. (Newly Added) A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of cutting said wood boards into strips suitable for wood flooring.
22. (Newly Added) A method according to claim 21, wherein said strips having widths from about three inches to about four and ½ inches.
23. (Newly Added) A method according to claim 22, wherein said wood veneer face layer has a thickness of about 0.15 inches.
24. (Newly Added) A method according to claim 9, wherein said core inner layers comprise successively oriented longitudinally sliced wood veneer sheets or rotary cut wood veneer sheets.